



Inventory and Monitoring Program

The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.

Project Highlights – July 2006

“Weed Watcher” volunteer program launch - The "Weed Watchers" invasive species early detection volunteer outings will begin on July 27 and continue every Thursday and Sunday through October. These weed scouting hikes involve outings in prioritized sub-watershed locations throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to survey and map the locations of 64-high risk weed species. Participants will learn to identify the priority weeds of the park, to use digital cameras and GPS units to record sightings, and then go on an excursion to look for the weeds. These hikes will vary in length and difficulty, but will last approximately 3 hours. The program is a pilot test for the early detection of invasive plants protocol, an aspect of long-term invasive plant species monitoring.

For more information, site locations, and directions call Elizabeth Speith, Biological Science and Data Management Technician, Parks Conservancy: 415-331-5023.

Raptor Field Season Draws to a Close at Pinnacles National Monument – This year, Biological Technician Gavin Emmons recorded and confirmed more raptor species (12) and more nests (58) than ever before during the 20-year monitoring program. Among them were 10 prairie falcon nests that produced 32 fledglings. Nest records for 2 species (long-eared owls and white-tailed kites) represented the first confirmed breeding records for both species in the 20 years of the raptor monitoring project. Another exciting discovery this year was the confirmation of two active turkey vulture nests. One was discovered by Ben Nugent of the IWS pig crew and the other by Eric Temple and Brendan Lukas of the trails crew. The finds represented the first active vulture nests at Pinnacles since 1984! As the breeding season wraps up, all climbing and hiking advisories have been ended for the rest of the year.

For more information, contact Gavin Emmons, Network Raptor Bio-Technician, (Gavin_Emmons@nps.gov; 831-389-4485 x 270).

Ongoing Field Projects: Curious about what all the Inventory and Monitoring program does? Here is a partial list of our ongoing field activities. Some are still in their development phase. All of these projects are closely coordinated with park staff:

- Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout – GOGA/PORE (seasonally throughout the year)
- Landbirds – JOMU, GOGA, PINN, PORE (Spring/Summer)
- Invasive Plant Species – GOGA (year-round)
- Rare Plant Species – PORE/GOGA (Summer)
- Pinnipeds - PORE and GOGA (seasonally throughout the year)
- Raptors – PINN (Spring /Summer)
- Spotted Owls – GOGA and PORE (Spring/Summer)
- Stream Flow – JOMU, GOGA, and PORE (year-round)
- Water Quality Monitoring – JOMU, GOGA, PINN, PORE (year-round)

For more information, contact Marcus Koenen, Network Coordinator (Marcus_Koenen@nps.gov; 415-331-5734).

To receive future editions of our highlights, please contact, Marcus_Koenen@nps.gov. For more information about the I & M Program: <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.cfm>